Ryan Wallace

EDU 248 A

Week 1

Educational technology is “the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using and managing appropriate technological processes and resources.” I would define it as the advancement of ones education through the uses of technology. To give 5 examples of this I would say the first big one I see today is the use of smart boards in classrooms. Almost every classroom you go into today has one, and it is a way to advance our classrooms and do away with those clunky overhead projectors. The second example I think of almost goes hand and hand with smart boards, and it’s the use of modern projectors. To save room they can be mounted to the ceiling to eliminate a cart for it to sit on.

Another example could be the word dock (like the one in our class), this could help out the teacher because they could show exactly where in the book they want to focus on. Computers are a good example as well, if every student has access to a computer and it has the internet they can all do research, instead of having just one or two computers for a whole class. Another example I think of was the integration from chalk blackboards to whiteboards with markers. All have helped advance education, they were all advancements in technology that assisted in students learning.

I believe it is very important to use AND integrate educational technology because technology is advancing all the time. We need to adapt to our surroundings to be able to survive, but we are also preparing our students with the knowledge on how to use the technology at hand, so they are able to use it without us in the future. Technology to me, builds upon itself; so if you don’t learn what you need now, you’ll be at a disadvantage later down the road when you need to apply that prior knowledge to something else. We as teachers are preparing our students for the future, and that means we have to know what we’re doing before we can tell them. That’s why we as teachers need to stay on top of the ever-growing field of technology and all its wonders.

There are some things one needs to know about integrating and using technology to teach and learn in a classroom. First I think you need to know how to make learning fun for the students. I know from experience that students learn best when they are actually interested in what they are learning about. So you have to engage them in the topic, and make them want to learn and further their knowledge. To help them learn I have to challenge them by using the technology myself to create things that will help them develop their resources, like how to find proper articles for research, like scholarly journals, and research done by others. I as the teacher have to demonstrate that I have knowledge about what I am doing. I have to exhibit to my students that I have invested my time into learning something new because I felt it would help benefit them of they learned how to use it as well. As well as show them how to be responsible about using the digital technology. That it isn't a toy to play with, but it is a tool to help advance learning.